

8. (Twice Amended) A method of reducing an atherosclerotic plaque load in the vessels of a patient comprising administering to a patient in need of such reduction a progestational agent that has an [effect on the function] of the sex organs of said patient less than that of an equivalent dose of medroxyprogesterone acetate, wherein said agent is administered in an amount and under conditions such that said reduction is effected.

10. (Amended) A method of reducing an atherosclerotic plaque load in the vessels of a patient comprising administering to a patient in need of such reduction a non-steroidal compound that inhibits macrophages or macrophage function, wherein said compound is a benzazepine, a butyrophenone or a benzothiophene and is administered in an amount sufficient to effect said reduction.

Add the following new claims.

14. (New) The method according to claim 8 wherein the progestational agent is 16-methylprogesterone.

15. (New) The method according to claim 8 wherein the progestational agent is a compound of the formula